

How to Have and Keep a Healthy Home

There are many chemical products used in and around the home that can become hazardous if they are not transported, stored, used, or disposed of correctly. Make a list of household products that you think may be harmful if they are inhaled, swallowed, or come into contact with your skin.

All household products should have labels that explain how to properly store, use, and dispose of them. Read product labels carefully and look for words like **poison, toxic, irritant, corrosive, flammable, or reactive**. If possible, replace these products with those that are safer for you and for your home. If you must work with a **toxic** chemical, buy only the amount that you need for the job. Read and follow the label instructions carefully.

Most Common Household Chemicals

- ◆ Automotive fluids (e.g., oil, gasoline, coolant, windshield cleaning fluid)
- ◆ Cleaning products (e.g., bleach, disinfectant, air freshener)
- ◆ Laundry products (e.g., detergent, fabric softener, stain remover)
- ◆ Personal hygiene products (e.g., hairspray, fingernail polish/remover, hair coloring)
- ◆ Lawn and garden products (e.g., fertilizer, pesticides, weed killer)
- ◆ Barbecue products (e.g., propane, charcoal briquettes, lighter fluid)
- ◆ Home maintenance products (e.g., paint, varnishes/stains, mouse/rat poison)

How to Use Chemicals Safely

- Avoid smoking while using hazardous chemicals.
- Avoid using chemicals near wells, cisterns, waterways, and bare ground. When using dangerous chemicals, make sure that people, especially children, and pets are not in the area.
- Remove/Cover food, cooking and eating utensils, and pet dishes when using potentially harmful chemicals.
- If working inside, be sure to ventilate the area by opening windows and doors.
- Wear gloves that will protect your hands and allow a firm grip on the product(s).
- Open containers carefully to avoid inhaling fumes/dust or contact with your skin and eyes.
- If you are spraying products containing toxic chemicals, whether working inside or outside:
 - ❖ Wear a mask to prevent inhaling the spray.
 - ❖ Wear clothing that will protect any exposed skin.
 - ❖ Wear safety glasses/goggles.
- Some cleaning products, e.g., bleach and ammonia, when mixed together, will create toxic fumes. In some instances, these chemicals may cause an explosion or fire.

**REMEMBER TO ALWAYS READ
AND CAREFULLY FOLLOW THE
PRODUCT LABEL INSTRUCTIONS**

Storing Chemicals

RETURN all products to their proper place after use.

KEEP the product in its original container, closed tightly, and correctly labeled.

CHECK the product container(s) often, looking for leaks, tears, dents/sagging, or loose lids/caps.

RECOGNIZE/SEPARATE chemicals that:

- cannot be stored together,
- must have temperature control,
- must have moisture control.

STORE pesticides, pool chemicals, and flammable liquids or gases in a well ventilated area away from your home.

LOCK UP/REMOVE all chemicals from children's reach.

Disposing of Chemical Products

GIVE the unused product(s) to a friend/neighbor who will use it properly.

RECYCLE products when you can, e.g., oil, coolant, and products that contain mercury.

LOG ON TO the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Web site at www.IN.gov/isdh for more information about recycling and waste collection services and locations.

For Additional Information

Indiana State Department of Health
Environmental Epidemiology Section
317.233.7294

www.IN.gov/isdh/programs/environmental

Indiana Poison Center

Poison - emergency treatment and advice
Emergency Phone: 800.222.1222
TTY/TDD: 317.962.2336

www.clarian.org/clinical/poisoncontrol

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Pollution Prevention & Technical Assistance (OPPTA)

800.988.7901

Safe Storage and Use of Hazardous Household Products

www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/hhw/disposal.html

Recycling Locations and Hazardous Waste Disposal

www.IN.gov/idem/land/hazwaste/industrialwaste/iwdisposalsites.html

www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/search

www.IN.gov/apps/idem/recycle/index.jsp

National and State Web Sites on Hazardous Household Products

www.Toxtown.nlm.nih.gov

www.swmcb.org/EPPG

www.watoxics.org/pages/root.aspx

www.outreach.missouri.edu/owm

www.epa.gov/opptintr/labeling

<http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~epados/waste/src/open>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf>

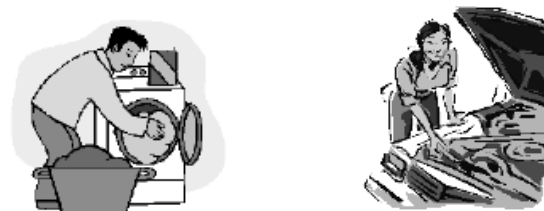
www.ikecoalition.org

All information provided is general in nature and should not be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.

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HANDLING COMMON HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS



Staying Healthy and Safe